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Women's Spring 1986 Newsletter

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This is the fourth Women for Peace Newsletter. We are hoping to produce it quarterly and have applied for a grant to cover costs.

"We" are Sylvia, Cas, Gillian, Jan, Eleanor, Maggie, Elaine, Rachel, Chris and Sue from the Women for Peace Group.

We need more:

articles, news, poems, short stories, cartoons, jokes, ideas, adverts (small fee) and letters.

- the next issue will have a letters' page
- so write to us now about anything that is on your mind - however briefly or expansively to
NEWSLETTER c/o 6 All Saints Terrace,
Arboretum Area.

The deadline is very flexible - our last contribution for this was received at 1 a.m. as we finished the layout - but we would prefer contributions by end of April if possible. They don't need to be typed (yes they bloody well do -typist here).

We particularly welcome black, Asian, working class and physically challenged (disabled) women to join the group and to contribute articles etc.

The next newsletter will be out at the beginning of June - we need more women to join us in producing it. Getting the newsletter out means:

chasing people for articles, typing, finding graphics, finding good jokes, writing articles, photocopying, getting together one evening and laying it out.

If you would like to be involved then phone Maggie 604579 or Elaine 708060 for when the next meeting is.

India Conference

War Resisters International (WRI) is a federation of pacifist groups (such as the Peace Pledge Union in Britain) and individuals around the world. Every three years they hold a conference open to all, and Pat and I attended the most recent one, held in India in January.

In addition to the usual workshops, there were extended workshops called 'commissions' which lasted for 4 mornings - a good idea, allowing us to get to know a few people really well, and explore something in depth. We both chose the commission called 'Women Against Violence/Violence Against Women'. It was a large group of more than twenty people, and as it hadn't been advertised as 'women only', it included three men - two from India and one from Spain. The women came from Australia, Aotearoa (NZ), US, Britain, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India.

The presence of the men soon created difficulties. We began by listing many different forms of violence against women, from rape and murder to marriage, low pay, child care, housework, divorce, contraception etc. Margaret, who was facilitating then suggested discussing these in small women-only and men only groups. This was not acceptable to the Indian men and some of the Indian women. They said that if anything is to change, men must be included, and must listen to everything we have to say. We explained that many women can only say things when men aren't around, but were told that we ought to say these things to men too. Even a suggestion that we have one mixed group and other women-only groups took a long time to agree on.



The women-only groups went well, but when we heard the report-back from the mixed group, the atmosphere became very tense. The men had dominated discussion (one woman had monitored this!), and had spent much of the time discussing whether men are 'by nature' more violent than women. Many of us felt very angry and didn't want these men in the groups, but the situation was very awkward because while some Indian women felt like us, others thought it was important that they stayed, and felt it was up to us to stop them from dominating! We didn't want to do anything that any woman was unhappy with, and we didn't want to impose Western ideas on Eastern women. The first morning ended with everyone feeling unhappy, and the problem unresolved.

Before the next morning there was considerable discussion and negotiations in twos and threes - Margaret and Reva, the two facilitators, put a lot of energy into sorting things out. The outcome was that next morning the men were invited to stay on condition that they accepted the need for women-only groups at times, and made a personal effort not to dominate discussions. But the men decided



that they didn't like what had happened and didn't feel wanted, so they left, to the huge relief of many of us.

I don't spend much time in women's groups, and I'm committed to working with men, but I found this experience incredibly frustrating. We wasted a great deal of time and energy discussing things which shouldn't have needed discussing, and the facilitators in particular were put under enormous stress. I can understand why some women decide they're going to put all their energy into women!

Once the men had gone we could all relax and the atmosphere changed completely. We divided into three groups, and exchanged experiences. We compared the Indian 'joint family' system, where a wife lives with her husband's parents and brothers and their wives, with the Western 'nuclear family'. It has the advantage that women are less isolated, and work can be shared. A woman may go out to work leaving children in the care of the mother-in-law. A disadvantage is that it encourages segregation. Tasks are always shared with other women, and men have no incentive to get involved in child care or domestic work.

We discussed whether arranged marriages are necessarily worse than choosing your own partner, and here the dispute cut across cultural divisions. We heard of women who had asked their parents to arrange marriage because they were nervous of making their own choice. We also heard how the dowry system is increasingly being abused, especially in the cities. Huge dowrys including cars, washing machines, videos etc. are being demanded, and if a woman's family cannot keep up with the payments, her in-laws may kill her. Several women have been burned to death for this reason, and two people currently face death sentences for a dowry murder.

It was good to hear from Indian women how they had managed to overcome such cultural problems and create an independent life for themselves. The conference was all too brief, and the women in our commission vowed to continue the exchange of information and experiences via a WRI women's newsletter. Anyone wanting to subscribe to the newsletter or help with its production should contact myself or Pat (when she returns from a life of leisure in India).

LINDA c/o
PeaceNews 18 Elm Ave.

For more details of the Triennial, see Peace News February 20. For information about WRI, contact WRI, 55 Dawes St., London.

Basic Case

In April 1986 CND will launch a major national campaign to put over the BASIC CASE AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS to the British public.

"To be effective we have to win the public mind, and not only on specific issues like Cruise, Trident, civil defence and the abuse of the security services. We have to convince the majority of our fellow citizens that nuclear weapons, illegal and immoral, do not defend us and that the arms race, supposed to be for our security, actually maximises insecurity for us all".

Bruce Kent (Sanity 1985)

For details of BASIC CASE see the Nottm. CND Bulletin or contact NCND tel: 472556.

HELEN SMITH CERAMICS

ORIGINAL HANDMADE
CERAMICS



21, Wiverton Road,
Sherwood Rise,
Nottingham NG7 6NQ
Phone: 603139



Greenham Bailiffs Nalگو Members

News has spread northwards of yet another twist in the sorry saga of the Greenham evictions: we learned recently that some of the bailiffs and their supervisors are actually members of the Newbury branch of NALGO (National Association of Local Government Officers), Nationally NALGO is affiliated to CND but the Newbury branch has apparently adapted a unilateral policy of action against peace camps, Greenham in particular.

On Saturday 18th January the NALGO East Midlands Region branches held their Regional Meeting at the University Medical School. About 10 of us distributed leaflets and spoke to delegates as they arrived. The response was good: no-one had been aware of this before, many were grateful for the information (though horrified by it) and some agreed to try to get the issue raised for debate during the session. As a result of this a report was called for to be presented at the next regional meeting and appropriate action was called for.

As usual there were some odd bodies. One woman brushed the information aside as irrelevant, saying confidently, "but Newbury's not in our region, dear", and a hardened delegate informed us that "sometimes national (NALGO) policy has to conflict with the national interest". No, we didn't know what he meant either!

It felt like a worthwhile action (what a change to have people say "thankyou for letting me know" instead of walking away!) and demonstrated again how effective a small but well-defined action can be.

STOP PRESS

On Friday February 7th Chris and Claire received information from one of the delegates that the report was incomplete and would not be discussed. He therefore intended to canvas for an emergency motion at the regional meeting on February 8th, expressing East Midland NALGO's support for the peace camps and calling for members of Newbury NALGO involved in the evictions to be disciplined or expelled from the union.

Chris asked if she could speak at this meeting to describe personally her and other wimmins experience of these evictions and two wimmin attended.

The emergency motion was accepted for discussion, standing orders were waived to allow Chris to speak. Other NALGO representatives expressed support, the emergency motion was carried overwhelmingly and will now be referred to National NALGO.

A second emergency motion was accepted that there should be a collection for the wimmins peace camp and over £200 was given by East Midlands NALGO. Hopefully the same level of support will be shown by NALGO nationally to stop the daily harassment of Greenham wimmin and make sexist, racist and violent evictions a thing of the past!!

Nottingham Lesbian Line

Nottingham Lesbian Line is a collective which has been in existence for several years. In recent months a number of changes have taken place. Several new women have joined the collective and at the present time there is a lot of enthusiasm and positive energy going into running it.

The function of Lesbian Line is to provide information on lesbian and womens meetings and groups and gay pubs and clubs. Women who are new to Nottingham are often met and taken to venues. The line also provides practical advice on such issues as housing and custody.

Perhaps most importantly the line provides women with the opportunity to discuss matters concerned with their sexuality with lesbians. For women who are perhaps examining their sexuality for the first time talking with women who view their lesbianism positively can be very reassuring and is sometimes the first step in the liberation of their sexuality. Existing lesbians also contact the line to discuss issues and problems with a sympathetic and impartial lesbian in the knowledge that their call will be treated as confidential. Whilst initial contact is usually made by telephone members of the collective will meet women and can offer both short and long term counselling if it is felt to be needed.

The collective currently comprises of 6 full members and four trainees. Lesbians who wish to join the collective should initially make contact by calling the line or approaching a member. They will have the opportunity to meet two members who will discuss with them the function of the line and its code of practice. The code of practice refers to such things as treating calls as confidential. Women must accept the code as a condition of joining. After attending two business meetings and five phone sessions lesbians are eligible for consideration for membership of the collective. The selection procedure may sound a little daunting but I am sure women will accept that it is vital for the line to provide a good quality of service and retain the confidence of the community. Members of the collective are all conscious of the need to improve their skills and to this end we have recently introduced training days.

A recent exciting development on the line has been the approval for two part-time jobs under the community programme. We hope to appoint in April and hopefully will then be able to increase opening hours which currently 7.30 - 9.30 .m. **MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.** Women wanting to use the services of the line or who are interested in joining the collective can contact us by telephoning **410652**

Do you work at home?

क्या आप घर में काम करते हैं?
सी डुमीं घर 'च रंभ बरहे नै?



About three years ago a group of women started to meet in Stapleford aware that many women in the area were being exploited as Outworkers. This group of workers, usually women and often from the black community, are very vulnerable because they are so isolated, working as they do from their own homes. Pay is very poor, some women work for as little as a few pence an hour. There is no sick, holiday or redundancy pay. Women who work as Outworkers are treated as the most expendable part of the workforce.

The Outworkers Support Group wants to establish a full advice and support service to give Homeworkers in this area information about their rights, put Homeworkers in touch with each other and act as a pressure group on the government and Trade Unions, amongst others, to better protect this group of workers.

We hope eventually, to be based at the new Women's Centre and provide an almost full-time service. Meanwhile, we have just drawn-up a 'fact pack' on Outworking which will be available free (donations welcome!) and we hope to run a temporary advice line, one night a week, starting in March.

From March the 9th. to the 16th. we are launching the 'fact pack'. In addition to having a London Homeworkers display in the area, and press and radio coverage we are having an Open Meeting on Wednesday March 12th. at the Community Relations Council, on Lower

Parliament Street. We would be happy to see some of you there.

If you would like further information, please contact:- Wendy on 607242 (home) 418571 ex. 4513 (work). Or write to us C/O The Women's Centre, 32A Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

Lesbian Line Benefit

Friday 28th February
8PM - LATE
Navigation on Canal Street

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

75p/50p



WOMEN'S AID

I won't assume that you know much about Women's Aid, certainly, three years ago, before I got involved, I didn't. I was walking around then with a strong awareness of the sort of male violence we call state violence; militarism, policing, nuclear power programmes etc; and an increasing acknowledgement of the sort of male violence that was making me afraid to walk around alone at night, and often uneasy to be around men I didn't know, but I only had an academic knowledge of this thing cosily called 'domestic violence'.

That's changed, I now know that it is happening to thousands of women in this city and any other city I chance to visit. Nipping down to the Victoria Centre to shop, or catching a bus, or waiting outside school, I know that around me there are women going through it, isolated, living under their own private dictatorship, maintained by violence, fear and poverty.



Constant Crisis

It's a constant crisis, an epidemic maybe, yet it is still mostly hidden and unspoken about. When we phone other refuges around the country, to see if we can find bed space for a woman and her children, we are constantly met by news of refuges just as full as ours.

Women's Aid is an organisation that provides refuge and support to women and children who have been subjected to male violence, sexual, mental or physical. It is the only organisation that women can approach with the certainty that they will be believed and that they will not be forced back into a violent relationship by guilt, 'don't you think that the children need their father?', or be blamed for what has happened, 'you must have done something to make him do this.'

Many of the women involved in women's aid are women who have been through the refuge themselves. It's not really a 'them and us' situation. We all know that it could have happened to any of us, and that the women who are being battered are essentially being punished because they are women.

Severe overcrowding

The refuge has been open for nine years, it is a six bedroom house which frequently holds as many as fourteen women and all



Institutionalized Violence

Formerly I made a clear distinction between institutionalised violence and individual violence, but I now feel that it's a mistake to see men's abuse of wives, girlfriends and children as just an immense series of unrelated 'personal' problems. This is the attitude of most of the involved agencies; D.H.S.S., Social Services, N.H.S., Police. Not only does this attitude make no sense, and reinforces women's sense of failure, guilt and worthlessness, but it avoids the uncomfortable realisation that this male violence is a basic part of our society, a vital part of the patriarchal system, another part of the male mindset that we perceive in nuclear madness.

Officially they say that 25% of all violent crime occurs in the home (and you know what that means) but when you talk to women they will tell you that they have never reported the assaults against them. They're too scared and they know that the police are not likely to intervene in such 'domestic tiffs', they don't like to come between a man and 'his woman'.



their children, you don't need to be good at maths to see that this means severe overcrowding. Women's Aid doesn't turn women away. If we are full we always try to find a place somewhere else. We never ask women for proof of violence. For one thing it is important that women are believed somewhere and for another, what is the visible mark of mental cruelty, sexual assault or the abuse of children?

We help women to get social security in their own right, get on housing lists, organise new schools, see a sympathetic solicitor to help with injunctions, custody of children, divorce etc.. We will arrange police escorts to go with women to get their clothes and belongings out of their former homes, help them to move into new houses when they get them, talk to them about feelings and problems and much more.



Allowing Women to Grow.

We try to help women to gain a sense of their own worth, and the confidence to take responsibility and make their own decisions. After years of abuse and put downs this is often not easy. To this end we try to organise the running of the house in a way that allows the women to participate and grow. We have a house meeting once a week that all the women in the house and all the members of the support group attend. The only real rules that are imposed by the support group relate to the security of the house, with women living in constant fear of the men they left this is something we take very seriously.

Women Co-operating.

The support group has responsibility for everything to do with Women's Aid, running the refuge, funding, publicity and talks and contact with the national Women's Aid network. It's made up of volunteers and two part time workers, two part time play workers and one part time outreach worker (the last three are on one year community programme schemes). The work of the support group is very varied, involving all I have mentioned and more. It's interesting, meaningful and, perhaps surprisingly, fun. Though the problems we are dealing with are certainly grim, the atmosphere in the refuge rarely is. It's a great relief for women to be away from the pressure, the isolation and the violence they may have encountered, to have a little freedom and to be with other women who have had similar experiences. Life in the refuge isn't easy, and the extent to which women co-operate and support each other under very trying circumstances is a tribute to womankind. Being together in a difficult situation has a humour of its own.

Warmth and Humour.

I feel I've got such a lot of good things from my involvement with the refuge. The thing that really got me hooked was the contact with so many different women, my inclusion into the warmth and humour of the place and into the lives of so many women that I would not have otherwise met.

As you can imagine, we need more help, and there's not just the refuge group but also the Women's Aid advice Group which operates as a drop in place at the Women's Centre. Also a group are involved in opening two new refuges in the near future.

So, if you have some time to spare and think you might like to join the group or maybe help with something like driving, we can be contacted at the refuge on Nottingham 624547, or ring Emma on Nottingham 608198.

The Women's Aid Advice Group and the new refuge groups can be contacted on Nottingham 476490 between 10 a.m to 1 p.m Monday to Friday.



WOMEN'S AID REFUGE
TEL - 624547.
WOMEN'S AID ADVICE
AND INFORMATION 10-1
MON-FRI TEL. 476490

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NOTTINGHAM RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

The Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre was set up in 1978 by a group of women concerned about the incidence and image of rape in this country, and who wanted to help themselves and reach out to other women in Nottinghamshire. It is one of about 40 centres situated in cities throughout Britain, all operating independently of each other. All the centres are run for the benefit of women who have been raped or suffered any kind of assault or sexual harassment, whether it be recently or in the past.

At present, NRCC is a collective of six women - four unpaid and two paid workers who are prepared to take telephone calls between 10am and 4pm Tues to Friday and from 10am to 1pm. on Saturday from women who want to make contact with us. All calls remain confidential and information is shared only among members of the closed group. We are in the process of training new women and hope to increase the size of the group.

Telephone 410440 if you would like to talk.

Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre is desperately short of money. Any donations would be very gratefully received.
C/O 37A Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

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Women in Medicine

Women in Medicine (WIM) is a national network of women doctors and medical students. It was set up in 1981 to deal with the conflict women face as both feminists and professionals working within the patriarchal medical hierarchy. Women doctors have specific problems, in terms of discrimination within the male-orientated career structure, poor availability of part-time work, and the grouping of women in low status areas of medicine.

WIM's aims include the setting up of regional support groups and to break down barriers between women doctors and other women health-workers and health groups.

This years annual conference will take place in London, 15-16th March (10 am - 5 pm).

Proposed workshops will include:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alternative medicine. | Women in mental health. |
| Reproductive technology. | Child sexual abuse. |
| Racism in the NHS. | Confronting heterosexism. |
| Informed consent. | Collective working. |

The conference is open to ALL WOMEN.

Cost for 2 days is: £25 fully waged doctors
£10 low waged
£5 students/unemployed.

(includes lunch, tea, coffee)

For registration and more details write to:
WIM Conference
28 Havelock Street
Sheffield S10 2FP.

A local Nottingham WIM group has recently been started.

Any women interested should contact: 413540.

WOMEN POLICE SURGEON FOR NOTTINGHAM

Recently Nottingham police have appointed a part-time woman police surgeon. This may have been as a direct result of pressure from a group of women doctors, who approached the police to investigate their interest in starting a scheme whereby women doctors are available on a rota basis to examine women and children who have suffered attacks of sexual abuse. This has been running extremely successfully for over 3 years.

Many women are unaware that they can demand to be examined by another woman, once they have gone to the police. Clearly, if a large number of women did exercise this right, this one 'token' woman police surgeon would be unable to meet the demand. The police would then be faced with either employing more women police surgeons or with co-operating with local women doctors to set-up a scheme similar to that running in Newcastle.

It is vital that women and children are not further traumatised by the examination process which is required. It is felt that a group of women doctors specifically trained to examine rape victims are in a better position to offer counselling help and support than is one individual woman, employed directly by the police who is involved with all aspects of police work and not just rape.

It is of course, a step in the right direction that at least one woman doctor is now available, but with added pressure and wider support we may be able to improve the situation still further.

WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP.

An opportunity to get together to discuss various issues and experience that effect women's health and lives.

At All Saints Community Centre
Meets Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30
Creche available

return visit

Dorothy Rowe

Thurs. Feb. 27 th. 7.30

at the Dept. of Adult Education, Shakespeare St.

Dorothy Rowe is the author of the MIND Book of the Year 'DEPRESSION: THE WAY OUT OF YOUR PRISON' and 'LIVING WITH THE BOMB: HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT ENEMIES'

Tickets: £1.50 (75p for UB40, Sup.Ben., Students and OAP's)
from Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St., Nottingham and the Dept. of Adult Educ.

Tickets are limited - please book early. Disabled access difficult - please ring Mushroom Bookshop tel. 582506 for more information.

Organised by MUSHROOM BOOK EVENTS GROUP.

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The Hidden Base

AMONG the low rolling hills of Berkshire is a small inconspicuous factory, however all is not as it seems, there are no signs indicating its position nor is it on any map. Yet there it sits in its picturesque surroundings, the country seemingly blissfully unaware that this is BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY.

The story begins in Scotland at FAST LANE. There the polaris missiles are unloaded from British nuclear submarines to be taken in convoy through several NUCLEAR FREE ZONES. The convoys destination is BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY. The factory not only "overhauls" the polaris missiles from the submarines, it also produces nuclear warheads.

BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY is supposed to be part of Britains independent nuclear defence. This I believe is nonsense; with the advent of cruise and the "explosion" of US bases in Britain we can have no independent nuclear defence. Any confrontation between the super powers would involve us, we are America's first line of attack, our defense policy is merely an extension of America's first strike policy. Burghfield merely supplies Britain and therefore the US, with more death machines, BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY is as much in US control as Greenham, because our defence policy is dictated by the US.

However the reason for this article is to record a little incident which happened during the Brave Defender week. On the ninth of September two groups of wymin protested in BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY. The aim was to bring to attention BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY and its importance in the nuclear chain. The first group were discovered on the firing range by ARMED M.O.D. BRITISH police. The arresting officer seemed very frightened and kept threatening to shoot. The second group made their way further in and climbed over a second fence. At first it seemed the police had mistaken the direction the second group of wymin had taken, it was later thought that instead of searching for the wymin they were making sure the wymin were not in the most sensitive area of the base (which is why the wymin now believe they know where the sensitive area is). The wymin came across some buildings looking like mini silos, after a good look round they made a visible and very audible protest on what they were later to discover was the main explosives store, they were eventually discovered.

AFTER being questioned the wymin were taken to Reading and charged with criminal damage. At 3 pm the wymin were informed that the M.O.D. solicitor was asking for the wymin to be held on 8 days remand. Their reasons were they wanted more time to assess the damage they might have done and to bring further charges. In court the M.O.D. prosecutor was not allowed to mention BURGHFIELD BOMB FACTORY. SHE described it as a maximum security establishment.

WOMEN FOR PEACE

Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

I.C.C. 61b Mansfield Road.

1st Tuesday of the month

main issue discussions
e.g. Pacific Women, Emergency Powers,
Anti-apartheid.

Usual Tuesday meetings; action groups, small
group discussions, women's peace issues.

9.30 onwards in the Smoke Room, The Forest Tavern,
Junction of Mansfield Road and Forest Road.



The magistrates granted unconditional bail to six of the wymin, however two wymin were given £300 surety, one was held overnight and then granted £500 surety. If the money had not been guaranteed the three wymin would have gone to Holloway.

THE WYMIN appeared at Reading a week later for their plea, however they were informed the case was to be adjourned for 6 weeks whilst the papers were sent the Dept. of Public Prosecution for possible prosecution under the official secrets act. This meant the possible prison sentence of up to a year could be expected. On the 26th of October the wymin were informed the charge under the official secrets act had been dropped. The wymin could now prepare for their case of criminal damage charge. On the 28th of October in court the wymin heard that all charges were being dropped. The M.O.D. solicitor stated they would not present any evidence however they objected to costs being awarded on the grounds "All ladies had a prima facie case against them". When the wymin asked why the charges were dropped if there was such a good case against them they received no reply.

THE WYMIN feel that the reason the case was dropped was to avoid publicity highlighting the ease of which security was breached at THE TOP SECURITY establishment in Britain. It is a nice co-incidence that the same day the Cyprus Spy case collapsed was also when the letter was sent informing the wymin that the official secrets act charges had been dropped. With one official secrets act case making big headlines the press would have latched onto this one especially when the incident happened during Brave Defender week.

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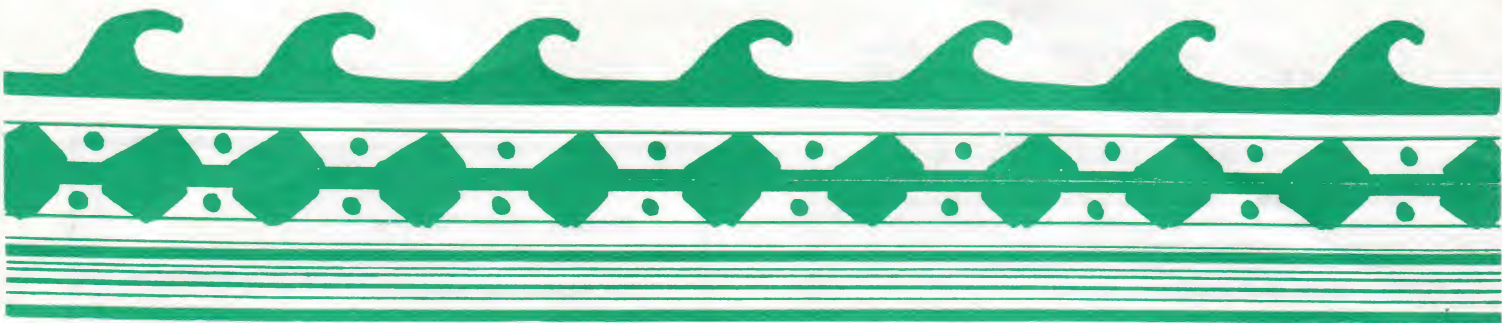
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NOTTINGHAM, AND IS RUN SOLELY BY WOMEN.



RONGELAP, MICRONESIA

"For our children's future we leave our land"

In May 1985 residents of Rongelap left their ancestral lands and went to live in Kwajalein Atoll (taken there by Greenpeace). They were seeking refuge from continuing exposure to contamination left on their island by the US nuclear testing program (1946-58) at Bikini and Enewetak Atolls. The Rongelap people have suffered from intense radiation illnesses, cancers, deformed babies at birth. The US has refused all responsibility. Today, having left Rongelap, they are attempting to create a new community.

A fund has been set up in Britain: Cheques marked "Rongelap Relief Fund" should be sent to
58 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester 21.



The global movement for peace, justice and a future for this fragile earth needs us to reach out and make personal, practical links.

"Aloha Aina"

BRITAIN TO JOIN MAJOR PACIFIC NAVAL EXERCISE

The British navy intends to send 8 warships, including the Illustrious, to join the RIMPAC exercise which is carried out in the central Pacific.

By doing this Britain will be bringing Nato to the Pacific, assisting in the U.S. Pacific alliance against the Soviet Union, and helping the U.S. to put pressure on the Lange government of Aotearoa (N.Z.). (Aotearoa has not been invited to participate this year).

RIMPAC exercise is scheduled to start in April for about 45 days and culminates in the shelling of Kaho'olawe, a sacred island for Indigenous Hawaiians.

Nelson Foster of the Pacific Campaign Against Sea Launched Cruise Missiles has written to warn us about British involvement. He writes: "What legitimate reason, even by conservative standards can there be for British naval exercises here? The minimum demand should be no firing on Kaho'olawe but I would urge you to argue for complete withdrawal from the exercises. Here's your chance to do something really direct for Pacific people..."

International, national and local actions are to be undertaken contact: Nottm. NFIP. Write letters of support to: Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, P.O. Box 142 Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii 96748. Letters of protest to your MP - get a flow of questions in Parliament. Write to the Admiralty.

U.K. NFIP have produced an info pac for this campaign for copies send S.A.E. to Cas. If you want to be directly involved in the 'Britain out of RIMPAC Exercise', all swimmers and persons with inflatables contact Cas!!

Be active for a nuclear free World

Rainbow Warrior

The Rainbow Warrior is still causing waves in Aotearoa. Now its about where it will be laid to rest. At last reports, Maori people from Matauri Bay community, north of Waitangi in Northland, unanimously decided to accept the Rainbow Warrior in their waters for its final resting place. It is sheltered with good visibility and plans are for a bouy marked with a tribute to Greenpeace marking the wreck and for a reserve to be designated.



Educate yourself and your contacts about the Pacific. Info from the NFIP Network Resource Centre, 7 Furnace Cottages, Crow Edge, via Sheffield.

Info local from NFIP Nottingham, 118 Julian Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AN. (Cas.)

Speakers available to give talks. Slides and videos available for showing at meetings.



PACIFIC JOURNEY 1986

There is a growing concern for the Pacific amongst peace groups, environmentalists and the churches, and a feeling that the people of this region will continue to be used as guinea-pigs in the arms race unless there is a worldwide, active and informed response to their campaigns.

Pacific people are not helpless victims - they are re-occupying land, voting to become nuclear-free and protesting against military exercises right, left and centre - showing us in the West what people can do.

THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT

Two women from UK NFIP are making a journey to the Pacific. Our normal communication links have and are being interfered with and we have great difficulty in keeping contacts open. These women have sold their personal possessions and homes to make this trip, they still require the sum of £5,000. Every penny will help, please send any money at all to:

NFIP Network - Pacific Journey
c/o Zohl & Bridget, 25 Wellington Row, Whitehaven,
Cumbria, CA28 7HE.

or post money directly to their bank: NFIP Network,
Trustee Savings Bank, Lowther Street, Whitehaven,
Cumbria. Cheques made payable to NFIP Network.



NOTTINGHAM ♀ FOR A NUCLEAR FREE & INDEPENDENT PACIFIC

Invite ALL ♀ to a meeting. On Tuesday 4th March at
7.30 at I.C.C., Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

There will be a showing of the Pacific slide program
'Nightmare in Paradise' and afterwards a discussion.



ACTION AGAINST FRENCH TESTING IN THE PACIFIC

The French are continuing to test nuclear weapons in the Pacific, on average one every month.

These tests are a serious threat to the ecological equilibrium of the region and to the total health of the Polynesian people. France has strategic and military dominance in the South Pacific and her presence is opposed by the indigenous people who wish the whole area a Nuclear Free Zone.

Actions will take place on July 1st (Bastille Day) in several European countries and the Pacific. A protest is planned for this day outside the French embassy in London and in our local areas.

Anyone wanting their telephone numbers placed on a telephone tree, so that actions can be planned to coincide with the French testing contact Cas.

You can do your bit by boycotting French goods.



THE FIFTH NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S FESTIVAL



THEATRE·FILM·VIDEO
MUSIC·EVENTS·SPORT
FOOD·INFORMATION·SPEAKERS
EXHIBITIONS·WORKSHOPS

MARCH 86

Saturday 1st March

until 31st

Exhibition · WOMEN'S POSTERS · Over 350 square feet of posters collected specially for the Festival; document, art and statement, showing the diversity of women's concerns and activities, past and present, local, national and international; showing different selections in three venues in Nottingham: UAEC — Canteen, ICC — Stairwall, MG — Stairwall · ☆

until 15

Exhibition · Gurmander Sikand · PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS · First in series Myth Moon and Muslin · Mansfield Community Arts Centre · ☆

until 15

Exhibition · Kate Fellows · EMBROIDERY AND PATCHWORK · Bingham Library Nottingham · ☆

Conference · Your Own Stuff Press with National Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers · WOMEN IN WRITING AND COMMUNITY PUBLISHING · QWCC · 10.00—7.00pm Workshops, Readings 6.00—7.00pm Performance · Creche · Food · Bar · Waged £2.00, unwaged £1.00 · contact Wendy Nottingham 261587 · ▽

Workshop · Women for Peace · EMERGENCY POWERS 10.00—4.00pm · QWCC · ▽

Tuesday 4th

Workshop · ASSERTIVE TRAINING · Trent Poly · Contact Alison 476725 · 7.30pm · ▽ · ☆

Tape, slide and discussion · Women for Peace Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific · NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE · ICC · 7.30pm · ▽

Film · TOUTE UNE NUIT by Chantal Akerman, Belgium 1984 · MG · 8.00pm · £1.75, £1.25 concession.

Wednesday 5th

Workshop · Visible Women · PHOTO MONTAGE · Bring your snapshots, empty your handbag, share your stories; we'll make an exhibition of ourselves, our lives, which will be shown during the Festival — see Thursday 6th, Tuesday 18th, Sunday 23rd — NCAC · 10.00—4.00pm · 50p · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Thursday 6th

Demonstration · RECLAIM THE NIGHT · Meet Market Square 7.00pm · contact Poly Womens Group April 476725 · ▽ · ☆

until 8th

Exhibition · PHOTO MONTAGE · See workshop on Thursday 5th · UAEC · ☆

Friday 7th

Poetry · LOCAL WOMEN WRITERS · Reading and Discussion · The Newcastle Arms, Nottingham · 8.00pm · 50p · ▽ · ☆

Visit · COACH TO GREENHAM · depart 8.30am Trent Poly, return 6.00pm · around £2.00 return · Booked seats only · contact Alison 476725, Irene 505912 · ☆



Saturday 8th INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

WEA · WEEKEND OF WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN · Over forty workshops including Dance, Health, Art, Employment, Politics, Music, Self-Defence, Therapy plus Exhibitions, Videos, Bookstall · Creche (under 10s) — book in advance · Refreshments · UAEC · 10.00—4.00pm · Waged £2.50, unwaged 75p, per day · ▽ · ☆

Social · Women for Peace · MUSIC · Bar · all women welcome · QWCC · 8.00pm · ▽ · ☆

Performance · Francoise Sergy · GROUNDS TO ACT · About male violence and self defence · University of Nottingham · 7.00pm · 50p · ☆

Celebration · WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES · Second anniversary of start of the miners' strike and International Womens Day · Speakers, disco entertainment · Bar · 8.00—12.00pm · contact Yvonne Mansfield 796751 · Oak Tree Lane Community Centre, Mansfield

Demonstration · PEACEFUL PICKET OF PORN SHOPS · City Centre · All day · Contact Irene 505912 · ☆

until 27th April

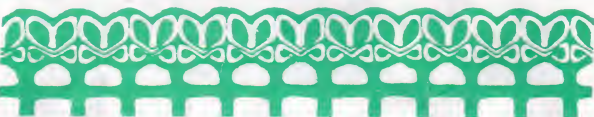
Exhibition · Julia Gash · DRAWINGS · First one-person show, life drawings of women and children · MG

Sunday 9th

WEA · WEEKEND OF WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN · Day two — see Saturday 8th

Monday 10th—15th

Exhibition · Jennifer Matthews · IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN · Photographs of women in Central America · NCAC · ☆



Tuesday 11th

Cabaret · Performance LIP SERVICE, Magic EVELYN SILVER, Singer HOPE, Band DOGS DINNERS · The Old Vic Nottingham · 7.30pm · Late bar · £2.50, £2.00, £1.50 · ▽ · ☆

Film · COUP DE FONDRE by Diane Kurys, France, 1984 · MG · 8.00pm · £1.75, £1.25 concession

until 27th April

Exhibition · RUTH DREEMAN · Craft Showcase · MG

Wednesday 12th

Workshop · PLEASURABLE EXERCISE · Indoors if wet · NCAC · 10.00—12.00 · 50p · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Thursday 13th

Talk · IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN · See Monday 10th · NCAC · 7.30pm · ▽ · ☆

Friday 14th

Poetry · WELL-KNOWN WOMEN WRITERS · Performance and Discussion · The Newcastle Arms, Nott'm · 8.00pm · 50p · ▽ · ☆

Performance · ANNE SEAGRAVE AND PATTI POWELL · Present an evening of dance and performance · MG · 7.30pm · £2.50, £2.00 concession ·



Saturday 15th

Workshop · VIDEO · Screenings · Nottingham Video Project · 10.00—4.00pm · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Workshop · BICYCLE MAINTENANCE · Nottingham Womens Training Scheme · 10.00—4.00pm · 50p · Limit on numbers contact Di 706181 · ▽ · ☆

until Saturday 22nd

Exhibition · Paula Murphy · SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SKY AND WATER · Books, Photos and 3D Paper Prints, working from the female form; with work by members of VISIBLE WOMEN also from the life model · See also Friday 21st · VWS · Opening 15th 5.00—7.00pm all women welcome · 15th—22nd 10.00—4.00pm · ▽ · ☆

Sunday 16th

BIKE RIDE · Women and children · Meet 11.30am outside Job Centre/Broad Marsh Bus Station at start of Clifton Cycle Path · Destination as yet unknown! · Ride will return to Arboretum to join picnic · ☆

PICNIC · Weather permitting · Families and friends, bring food, drink, kites, musical instruments, dancing feet, games, banners, costumes, surprises etc for a do it yourself, ad hoc, gathering · (You can feed the ducks but please don't leave litter) · The Arboretum · 2.00pm · ☆

Monday 17th

Film · STREET CORNER · by Muriel Box, GB, 1953 · MG · 8.00pm · £1.75, £1.25 concession

Tuesday 18th

until 31st

Exhibition · PHOTO MONTAGE · see Wednesday 5th · NCAC · ☆

until 19th April

Exhibition · Louise Garland · WALL PIECES AND PAINTINGS · Second in series Myth Moon and Maelin · Mansfield Community Arts Centre · ☆

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

Wednesday 19th

Workshop · Visible Women · SCULPTURE/COLLAGES · Theme FOOD as image, role, issue, personal, political, international as well as health and fun, all women welcome; Will be shown at DAFT Day — see Sunday 23rd · NCAC · 10.00—4.00pm · 50p · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Theatre · SIREN present PULP · A lesbian thriller musical comedy · QWCC · 7.30pm · Bar · Waged £2.00, unwaged £1.50 · ☆

Thursday 20th

Workshop · Visible Women · PICTURE/COLLAGES · Theme HANSEL AND GRETEL · See Workshop Wednesday 19th · Will be shown at DAFT Day — see Sunday 23rd · VWS · 10.00—4.00pm · 50p · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Talk · Mushroom Book Events Group · DALE SPENDER · County Library Auditorium · 7.30pm · £2.00, £1.00

Friday 21st

Slides and Discussion with Women Artists · RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMAGES · Relating to Women's Art handling of the nude, and the issues raised, all women welcome · VWS · 1.00—5.00pm · Creche · ▽ · ☆

Cabaret · WOMENS AID BENEFIT · Performance BRITANNIA WAVES THE RULES, Bands SATSUMARUMA and FLAMING NERVE, Poet PAT ROBINSON · Italian Community Centre · Late bar · £2.50, £2.00, £1.50 · ▽ · ☆

Saturday 22nd

GIRLS ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH DAY · Wide ranging programme for 10 to 18 year olds · John Carroll Leisure Centre · 10.00—4.00pm · contact John Carroll Community Association, Sue Kitchen 780458

Conference · EMAFCA · Community Arts · WOMEN IN THE ARTS · Speakers, Workshops, Information, Exhibitions · QWCC · 9.30—4.30pm · Creche · Waged £4.00, unwaged £1.50 · Contact Diane 782463

Sunday 23rd

DAFT DAY · EXTRAVAGANZA OF DANCE, ART, FOOD, THEATRE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN · Enjoy joining in — dance with Nilima Devi and African Kalabash, Percussion with Nottingham Womens Performance Group, Art competitions and exhibitions (see workshops on 5th, 19th and 20th), Food with Asian (by EKTA), wholefood and vegetarian caterers, Theatre with Evelyn Silver feminist magician and Gay Sweetshop on anorexia and agoraphobia · Watch for competition details: Funniest Food Photo and Funniest Food Story — winners printed in Nottingham Trader — Handmade Edible Necklace, Food Hat and more! · Souvenirs for children · Fun for us all · Indian Community Centre Nottingham · 2.00—9.00pm · £1.50, £1.00 Children 50p · ▽ · ☆

Wednesday 26th—29th

Film · PUMPING IRON II · MG · 8.00pm · £1.75, £1.25 concession · Talk, 26th, with Mandy Merok · This film programme presented by Midland Group (see 4th, 11th, 17th) continues through April

until 18th May

Exhibition · Pat Whitehead · CONSERVATION PIECES · MG

Saturday 29th

Nottingham City Council · LESBIAN OPEN DAY · with films · contact Equal Opportunities Unit, Jo 418571 x4520



KEY

UAEC — University Adult Education Centre, 16 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Tel: 475162

ICC — International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel: 419842

MG — Midland Group, Carlton Street, Nottingham. Tel: 586100

QWCC — Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows, Nottingham. Tel: 782463

NCAC — Nottingham Community Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. Tel: 782463

VWS — Visible Women Studios, Top Floor, 46—48 Carrington Street, Nottingham. Tel: 626709

★ — Nottingham County Council Leisure Services/Arts event

☆ — Nottingham Area Students event

☆ — Womens Festival event

▽ — Women only

CONTACTS

Helen Bridges 782463, Carol Crowe 626709



WOMENS FESTIVAL STOP PRESS

No womens Social on March 14th — now moved to March 28th. Check your program.

The Housewife's Song

(to be intoned tunelessly, eyes down, while mechanically tidying up, clearing up, etc.)

I'm sorry I can't see you today.
Yes, I know I live with you, spend my life with you,
Share my bed with you.
I know I ought to want to be with you
But can't you be satisfied with what you've got?
(I can't even see myself, never mind you).
There's so much to do: shopping lists,
Dirty washing up, our child to be taken to the loo.

Don't just stand there with your appealing eyes,
Another child wanting me, draining me.
Quite frankly, your love's another pressure,
Another chore. Please don't bother me
With your requests to love me.
There just isn't time.
Leave me alone on my treadmill of jobs.
Of course I'm not happy, but at least I'm in control,
Fighting my eternal fight against disorder and dirt.

The truth of it is,
Your wanting to love me makes me angry.
I'm jealous of the way you stand there,
Certain and strong,
Knowing what you want and asking for it.
I don't know any more what I want,
Whether one piece of toast or two,
Who to live with, how or where.

But it's more than anger or jealousy:
I'm afraid I'm in danger of despising you.
How can you love me when I don't exist?
You may have married a princess
But can't you see I've become a drone?
There is no other me but this housewife.
I need all this ivy clinging round me.
While strangling me, it also keeps me standing up.

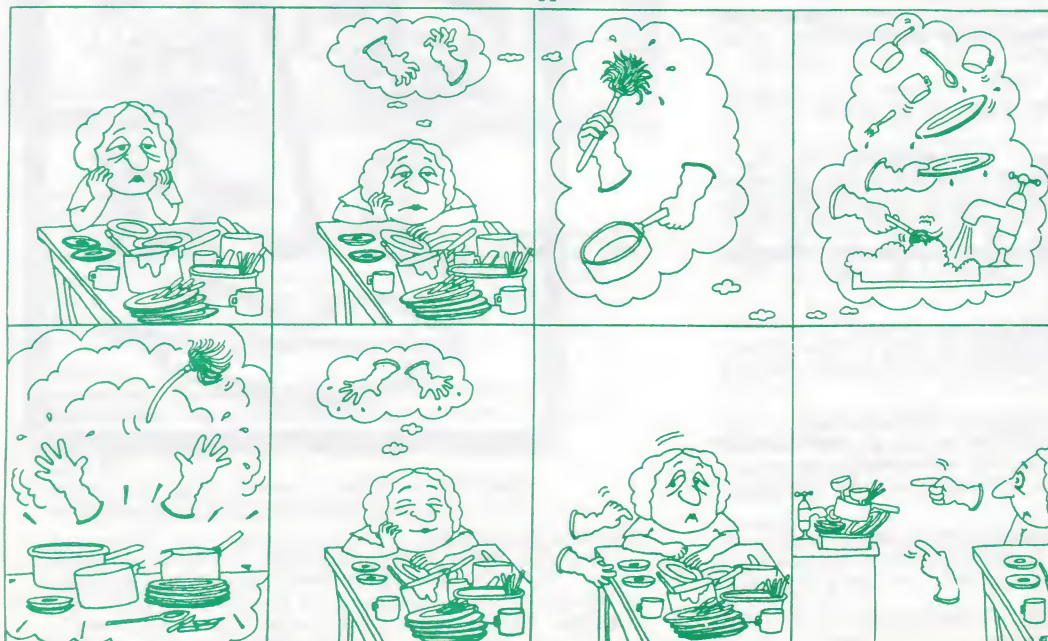
In rare moments of clarity
I know what I need -
The abrupt halt of Californian joggers
Who from full flight stop to meditate,
Letting their energy pour back into themselves,
A balmy, golden fluid caressing their whole beings,
Softening, relaxing, strengthening.

Only by giving time to myself
Can I discover, accept, love myself
And so become whole.
Then, only then can I dare to approach
And share my dance with another.

Till then, just leave me in peace
To get on.

Dec 83
Jan 84

Alison Chippendale



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN
NOTTINGHAM

Children's Creative Work on the subject
of PEACE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS and
THE ARMS RACE

Nottm. CND (Exhibition Group) welcome drawings,
paintings, poetry and prose by children to use
in a display at the Central Library in April 1986,
followed by the circulation to local schools etc.

Enclose the child's first name, age, town and
country (and please supply an English translation
of the work if necessary).

Contributions by March 16th at the latest to:

Jane Ripley, 28 Caernarvon Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham.



WOMEN FOR PEACE WORKSHOP
ON
EMERGENCY POWERS

Saturday 1st March 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
at Queens Walk Community Centre
The Meadows.

"There is now a fair amount of information
available about the government's home defence
plans. Yet so far, this information is only
known to relatively small numbers of activists in
the peace movement. I suggest that we must look
at this information afresh as a first step to
understanding its meaning for us and others."

"One of the first things you realise when research-
ing into civil defence in this country is that it
does not exist. Home defence, in the sense of
protecting our rulers, political and military, from
the "internal enemy" (us) does indeed exist"

Liz Freuthal
Nov. 1985.

Come to the workshop and learn more about central
and local government's emergency powers over our lives.



Poetry Evening

On Friday the 24th of January I found myself walking up the concrete slopes of the International Community Centre. It was my first visit since dropping out of an 'o' level geography evening class, eighteen years ago, when the building was then known as the Bluecoat School. I had come to an evening of Womens' Poetry; an invitation from Alison Chippendale and Lorna Dexter to 'Find Our Voices'.

I found them in the upstairs room among a small circle of chairs in the far corner. As eight o'clock approached the chairs were filled and the circle grew and grew until we filled the room.

After a warm welcome Alison read a small selection of poems that she wrote during a period of great change and growth last summer. At intervals Lorna read poems written by other women, including a couple from one present-Maggie.

We listened with care: dreaming, nodding, laughing and an occasional sigh.

The large circle of mostly unknown faces made it difficult, at least for me, to accept Alison and Lorna's invitation to share our responses there and then. Dividing into smaller groups however, the room became a buzz of thoughts and feelings. Several women voiced a new impetus to write their own poetry.

Though much of the poetic detail is no longer remembered, the warmth and gentle enthusiasm of the evening is still with me. I am left with a wish to hear more of Alison's poetry, to see it on paper, to read more womens' poetry, and to share some of my own self with others.

Gail.

SOLIDARITY

Weave your bones close to mine, when you're feeling hollow.
Let my hearts' blood infuse your shrunken frame.
Gather up your shattered threads hanging in the careless wind.
Enmesh together our threads into a strong cloth to clothe our bones.

A flag, running bravely in the wind.

Maggie

Leaving Home

If
There was to be a final roll-call now
Where,
Oh where would it find us all?
The personal solution reigns supreme it seems
One in the eye for the wimmin's movement
Trouble is though
The enemy's as relentless as ever
And
The fucking war's still raging
Some of us
Desperately need refuelling
Insanity or
Suicide's the only alternative
Tho
The personal solution's almost tempting.

Marie

The goldfish has grown.
It needs a bigger tank.
I have been saying so for weeks.

Lazily I hesitated, thinking of the expense,
Hoping that if I waited long enough
And asked around, something might turn up.
Meanwhile the fish has been steadily growing,
And the space around it getting smaller.
Lately it has begun to make protests,
Jumping into the air and landing
Back in the water with a sharp plop.
It's making everyone nervous.

Hang the expense.
I'll get it what it needs.
When you need a bigger tank
You need a bigger tank.

Alison Chippendale

Aug 83
Lower Shaw Farm &
Brighton

NEXT LOCAL WOMEN'S POETRY EVENING

March 7th.

**** BRING YOUR POEMS ****

Newcastle Arms 8 p.m.
North Sherwood Street.



Women for Peace was formed when women from a WONT (Women Oppose Nuclear Technology) group called a open meeting for all women concerned about peace. They were a strongly feminist group, and had felt there was a need for a much broader based group.

Three years later we seem to be at another watershed, but perhaps unwilling to face it. Women for Peace has been an amazingly strong and able group, with many achievements. In its heyday as many as 30-40 women used to come everyweek. Many women have been through the group, and moved on to other groups with more particular concerns (anti-apartheid, women's centre, lesbian line, Pacific women's group, etc.). Because it's been a women's group it has, by its very nature been a space for women to learn and grow, personally as well as politically.

But we seem to be facing a crisis point of "where now?". We've done the discussing, vigilling, talking, leafleting, blockading so many times, it's hard to maintain the same levels of enthusiasm. And like the peace movement in general, when the military spending continues to escalate oblivious to all our efforts, and when countless other issues within the broad spectrum of peace, (e.g. Third World exploitation, racism, civil liberties) become increasingly urgent, it's hard to keep the concentrated momentum up. So, numbers are low, energies are low, not many new women seem to be coming in. The first of the month meetings are still supported well, but at the weekly meetings few women are taking on to organise or instigate anything. There's lots of reasons for this, there are too many other things to campaign about, and too few women to do so. Also we've always relied on there being unemployed women with enough time to do things. And it's also a matter of life and energy cycles, there's an inevitable peak and ebb, to any group. So what does this mean for Women for Peace? Should we accept our limitations, become an occasional (fortnightly) discussion, information sharing and self education group, accept that we're not a dynamic action based group any more? Should we admit that we're a women's drinking and social club? Or should we actually disband, officially declare the group defunct, and put our energy into other areas? Drastic perhaps, but better than lurching along a shadow of our former selves? We're beginning to talk about it, come and make your feelings known.

Eleanor

LIZ HOLLIS.

Dear Women's Newsletter.

There's no easy way to say this but we are writing to you with some terrible news. Over the weekend of 15/16th February, Liz Hollis sadly committed suicide. We feel so sad, with so many others, at the enormous loss. She was very special and important to so many people; through her love and commitment to women, her commitment to anti-racism and to the peace movement, and her absolute dedication to the women in the miners' strike and in the anti-apartheid movement. Before she moved to London to join the Anti-Apartheid Movement head office, she was active in our group. Liz was always so full of life and keen to get things done; she had lots of energy, smiles and jokes. She was lovely to talk to about so many things as she really cared about peoples' lives. We're all in a state of shock; it's hard to know what else to write. Nothing can express our grief.

The Anti-Apartheid Women's Group.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES GROUPS

All their groups meet regularly - monthly or bi-monthly. For more information ring Wendy Young, Equal Opportunities Unit, 418571.

1. Disabilities Working Party
Tuesday 4th March
7.30 "Employment Issues"
2. Womens sub-committee discussion group.
"Women and Work"
Wednesday 12th March 7.30 pm.
ICC. 61b Mansfield Road.
Planning the discussion day.
3. Women & Racism Discussion Group
Saturday 15th March 4.30 pm.
Matsimela, Marcus Garvey Centre
Lenton Boulevard.
Creche & tea provided.
Open to all women.
4. Womens sub-committee meets.
March 21st 7.30 pm.
Council House, Market Square.
Observers welcome.

WOMEN'S RECLAIM THE NIGHT MARCH.

Assemble Market Square 6.15 pm
Thursday 6th March.

Bring banners, musical instruments, candles

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

(in order to make this march a success we need as many women as possible to attend this event)

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN GROUP

INVITES YOU TO
AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON

*Lesbian
Books*

*What do you read?
What books are available
and where.
Do the libraries stock
enough lesbian
literature.*

on Thurs. 27th - Feb.

7.30 pm



City of
Nottingham

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

MANSFIELD RD

RM 1

Lesbian Sport every Sunday 1-3pm. All Saints Community Centre.

STAND YOUR GROUND

Based on the TV Programme of the same name, **STAND YOUR GROUND** includes confidence building, assertiveness and physical defence techniques.

Our methods are different from conventional self-defence teaching in that conditioned reflexes are not our goal. Emphasis is put on intuition and self-esteem, without which fighting skills alone are ineffective.

Our aim is to "stand our ground" not only in the face of physical attack, but also at work and home etc.

Introductory evenings will be held on the following dates, free of charge:

March 3rd
March 10th
April 14th
May 12th
June 9th

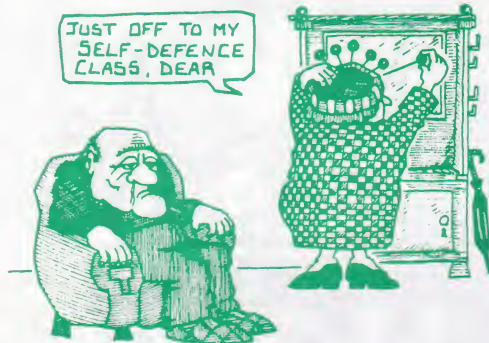
Time: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Day-long workshops will be held on the following Saturdays: March 22nd

Sunday April 13th
Saturday May 10th
Saturday June 7th

Time: 10.00am - 5.00pm.

cost to be decided but negotiable.



Venue: Queens Walk
Community centre,
in The Meadows.

For further information and/or registration please phone Not'm 812798



WOMEN'S SOCIAL at the Narrowboat, Canal Street.

FRIDAY 28th MARCH 8 pm - 12 midnight.
DISCO and "The Others" - two women band.
75p & £1.50p
organised by the Lesbian Group.

By the way:-

Victoria Wood is on at the Royal Centre on Sunday April 6th.

Tickets from Box Office.

NOTTINGHAM WOMENS FESTIVAL A WEEKEND OF WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN

SAT - SUN. 8th -9th MARCH 1986

Registration: 9.30am

10am - 4.30pm

COST: £2.50/DAY
75p UNWAGED

40 DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS

Non Violent Direct Action
Women Against Apartheid
Second Chance Education
Art & Sexual Politics
Computer Workshop
Stress Management
Self - Help Groups
Women & Politics
Women & The Law
Music Workshop
Sexuality
Healing
Yoga



CRECHE
WHOLEFOODS

Polarity

Women & Work

Assertiveness

Co - Counselling

Racism Awareness

Stand Your Ground

Women As Claimants

Alternative Medicine

Transactional Analysis

Asian Women in Nottingham

Women Against Pit Closures

Notts. Womens Training Scheme

BOOKSTALL EXHIBITIONS OF WOMENS ART VIDEOS STALLS

AT THE ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE, 14 - 22 SHAKESPEARE ST.
Enquiries to Tina Iwanejko Telephone 473022
Register to be sure of a place. Registration forms available from desk
Supported by East Midlands District WEA, Nottingham Branch WEA.

Thoughts from NICARAGUA on VIOLENCE

Sitting on the bus from Managua to Rivas, there's a soldier beside me, standing in the aisle, pistol on his belt at my eye-level. He's on the bus as a passenger, not as a representative of authority or repression. I wonder if he's on duty at the Southern border. His uniform, like so many peoples' clothes, is very clean and ironed, but not stiff and starched. It's just a dull green shirt and trousers with pockets, and a cap. I know that if our eyes should have reason to meet, his expression would be as open and friendly as anyone else's. I know he must almost daily face the possibility of killing or being killed or injured. He has to force himself through hunger and physical discomfort and pain; and remember his anger at injustice and torture in order to be impersonal enough to not look in the eye when the moment comes to face the contra. Such are my imaginings about how a humane person can fight and kill in face to face warfare as this often is. My mind wanders around the idea of violence, the ways in which I've experienced it and seen it here in Nicaragua. Few and far between, but fairly shocking (to me) in their extremity. Totally acceptable to all around them—apparently. I'm thinking of physical violence and none has been done to me here, or even threatened.

Teresa taking the belt to her grand-children. They were in the street when their mother came home, thus exposing Theresa's negligence, so she punishes them. They are three years and 18 month old girls. These girls are not allowed to play on the street. Their mother, who is about to leave them with Teresa while she goes to live in the States, seems not to be perturbed by this beating. The neighbours can hear but there's no sense of shame. This is in the city.



And at Candida's, the world of campesinos, state farm workers. She's gone to bed in the other room with the children. The sun's gone down, no moon, no electricity. Helen, my companion "internationalista", and I are too tired to do any reading or writing by paraffin flame, not quite tired enough to sleep, not quite confident enough of our friendship to talk. We drift from the bench outside towards our beds on the other side of the partition from Candida. First I go to the latrine—across the tractor yard, through what was the dusty cotton and is now 6" high green maize, irrigated, damp. I can hear shouting and crying from the buildings, and banging. When I get back Helen is sitting looking upset on the bed, very quiet. Candida has been hitting her 13 year old son; he came back from the shop with less change than she thinks he should have. Money's tight, food not abundant. He and his 8 year old brother pick cotton every morning, for wages. Or gather firewood for Candida's cooking. The next day he is more subdued than usual. He has a bump on his head.

Last time Helen saw him being beaten, his 20 year old brother swung in with his leather belt. That argument was about messing around instead of cotton-picking. Candida was shouting at him that cotton-picking was the only way he could get ahead in this life. Gregorio was terrified. The other onlookers—farm workers, tractor drivers,— were laughing. Only the 2 European brigadistas were horrified and tried to intervene.

Candida is 39. She has borne 11 children—6 alive, 1 born dead, 1 dead at less than a week, and 3 within a year from diarrhoea. She has recurrent stomach pains, bad teeth, aching shoulders. She carries several barrels of water daily 100 yards from well to house and works from before daybreak to sunset—cooking, washing, cleaning, caring for children. These scenes raise many questions in my mind about violence, brutality, cruelty, and the social conventions and relations around them. I find myself not only shocked but disapproving and also wary of being culturally presumptuous :- in 13 years I hit my son only once, but know





Morrigan Housing Co-op Appeal.



Morrigan HOusing Co-op is a womens housing co-operative which has been in existence for nearly five years. We currently own two houses which were purchased using private loans. There are nine adult members and one child at the moment. Over the past two years we have been trying to expand our housing stock so that more women can join the Co-op. This has culminated in Nottm' City Council granting us 100% mortgages to purchase five 2_3 bedroomed houses in the Inner City area during the year April 1986 - April 1987. Each house will house 2_3 women with children.



However, although we are getting 100% mortgages we are in need of further funding for three reasons:—

- 1_ To cover the cost of conveyancing, valuation and other administrative fees (up to about £250 per house) incidental to the purchase of these houses.
- 2_ To meet the difference between the council's valuation of a property and the purchase price of that property where necessary.

- 3_ In some cases the council will retain a portion of the mortgages until certain specified work on the property has been carried out eg. rewiring, damp proofing. Therefore the co-op may need money to make up the difference between the reduced mortgage the council will give and the purchase price or to pay for the repairs.

We estimate that we need £3,000-£4,000 to enable us to proceed with the project. We are trying to raise some of the money by fund-raising events like discos, a sponsored swim etc, but these are unlikely to give us the amount we need. So we are starting an appeal fund. If you feel you could contribute a sum of money, however small, donations can be paid directly into Morrigan Housing Co-op, a number 2 account at the Co-op Bank, Friar Lane—

— account number: 50548787. Alternatively it could be sent to Gill Bowry, 31 Russell Rd, Forest Fields, Nottm,

We are also setting up a loans scheme. A loan agreement would be drawn up by our solicitors to set methods of repayment between a woman making the loan and the Co-op. If you could support us and are in the position of being able to lend a minimum of £100 could you please get in touch with Gill Bowry at the above address.



very well how to be emotionally cold as a method of control. Still, I feel justified in disapproving of physical violence, and at the same time curious about its expressions here in Nicaragua, amongst warm and friendly people. How do the neighbours view these beatings when they are justifiably outraged by counter-revolutionary atrocities against the weak and unarmed? How do these people remain so warm, and humane too, and full of expressions of feeling (not just sentimentality and romance)

What is the difference, if any, between violence, and the extreme hardship that forces people to work through their own pain, as Candida does most days of her life?

What is the effect of these experiences on the individuals' violent impulses—are they brutalising, is this why violent expression is possible, allowable?

Is this violence really disapproved of—after all these incidents were unusual: is it just that neighbourly tolerance and permissiveness avoids intervention or confrontation?

How do these incidents, and the apparent passivity, or lack of disapproval, relate to a wider attitude to violence? In general the armed revolution was justified by the brutality

of oppression, but revenge and repression were avoided after the triumph. The on-going war is one of self-defence and defense of the gains of the revolution. Taking a turn at fighting is talked of by participants as one (and the most distasteful) of the necessary tasks to defend the newly-founded democracy and other freedoms. Ordinary people frequently expressed their desire for peace, to be left to develop their country. The government adopts a radical and probably unique attitude to aggression and expansionism in spite of being under attack from the U.S. economically and militarily, and being close neighbours of three nations—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—where U.S. activity is killing hundreds daily. Could it be that hitting children is seen as a "private" matter? Government concern with violence does not stop at international issues. Domestic violence against women is punished by public humiliation of the offending man—publication in daily newspapers of their photos and crimes—an effective punishment and deterrent in a land of machismo, and relatively easy in a small population (3 million). I'm not really trying to reach any conclusions only to set out some facts, incidents and thoughts which set my mind working on ideas about violence and non-violence, while I was away from familiar surroundings and easy judgements.

Mary Anderson.



Women Against Violence Against Women

edited by dusty rhodes and Sandra McNeill
(Onlywomen Press 1985. £4.95/\$8.95)

This book consists of a selection of papers from National Women's Liberation Conferences - the Sexual Violence against Women, Leeds 1980, WAVAW, London 1981, Male Power and the Sexual Abuse of Girls, 1982.

As such, it is an invaluable record of the debates and campaigns in the WLM in the early 1980's and reflects the personal experiences and struggles of a great many women involved in these, including a great many lesbians. But it's more than a record of past conferences. True, many women may feel it's all a long time ago and that they have moved on since then - nevertheless it's a wonderful book in many ways. The contributors go a long way towards developing feminist analysis and strategies around male power and control of women, male violence, rape, incest, the sexual abuse of children, pornography. The book contains many open, personal statements about women's experience of male violence and sexual abuse, some horrific. At these conferences women took risks, spoke out.

At the 1981 WAVAW Conference there were several workshops on sexual politics. The papers include a useful discussion of lesbian S/M and the way this "takes the heterosexual model and mimics and exaggerates all its horrors and inequalities", reflecting and reinforcing men's power over women. The conclusion of Jayne Egerton's paper is still worth thinking about "As the S&M lesbians demonstrate, being a lesbian is not enough in itself if all we can do is repeat and exaggerate present heterosexual patterns". The papers on the pressure to be heterosexual are very interesting although they don't include discussion of the cultural pressures on black and Asian women.

One should not, perhaps, expect the impossible of conference papers mainly prepared in a short space of time as a basis for discussion rather than an exhaustive, in-depth analysis. It is obvious that the conferences were mainly attended by youngish, white women, and that the scope of the discussions was sometimes limited. There isn't much about violence against lesbians or the oppression and silencing of lesbians. Nor, as the editors admit with regret, is there much about issues affecting other groups of women, black women, Asian women, Jewish women, Irish women, disabled women... Al Garthwaite mentions that pressures to be heterosexual "work on women of different classes differently" and gives some examples, but it would have been interesting to see this process examined in more depth.

Despite its inevitable limitations the WAVAW book is extremely informative and useful, essential feminist reading. And the editors' preface is encouraging for us all. "These papers contribute to a new way of seeing the world as it is, and hopefully changing it for the better." It's up to us to continue the struggle.

V. HART

OUROBOROS
37a MANFIELD ROAD
(OPPOSITE YORK HOUSE)

WHOLEFOOD

BALANCED EATING

TELEPHONE
NOTTINGHAM 419016

COLLECTIVE

WHOLEWHEAT PASTA
VEGETABLE OILS
PORRIDGE OATS
HONEY
BROWN RICE
NUTS AND SEEDS
WHOLEWHEAT FLOUR

WHOLEWHEAT BREAD
PEANUT BUTTER
DRIED FRUIT
MUESLI
SEA VEGETABLES
ORGANIC VEGETABLES
RENNET-FREE CHEESE

PLUS A WIDE SELECTION OF HONEY IN JARS, HERBS & SPICES, BAKING MATERIALS AND COOKING UTENSILS.

uroboros

WORKERS' CONTROL NOT
CONTROLLED WORKERS

New Womens Centre

Negotiations are being completed for taking possession of the new building. The hard work is just beginning! Now we have to convert it, improve it, decorate it. To help us we have got £105,000 for the building costs, but we do need lots of input to work out the running of the centre on a day to day basis.

The building is on four levels and will contain rooms for groups to operate from, a cafe, creche, workshops for crafts and trade women, space for a disco, a library etc.

There is room for new groups and enormous potential for new projects, campaigns etc. A lot of women are already giving their time and ideas but we would welcome more; especially disabled women, black women, working class women and lesbians.

Meetings to discuss progress and make decisions take place every first and third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Women's Training Centre, High Pavement, next to Shire Hall.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

S.A.G.G.

The Sexual Assault and Girls Group is meeting regularly again once a fortnight on a Thursday at 1.15 - 3 pm at the Women's Centre. We are still a small group and for the present have decided that all we want to do is work towards finishing a fact pack for girls (16 years plus) which was started last year. The fact pack tries to identify various problems around the issue of sexual assault/incest and look at some possible solutions. We hope eventually to give the pack to girls when we do talks in schools and youth clubs. We would welcome other women in the group.

If you would like to know more about SAGG, phone Rape Crisis on 410440 (Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays)

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN LINE



410652

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

7.30pm - 9.00pm

FOR CONFIDENTIAL HELP, ADVICE AND
INFORMATION

ff

Womens Politics & mixed Actions

The womens gate at Molesworth seemed to be a result of conflict within the Defend Molesworth Network, and both before and during the Feb. 6 Blockade of Molesworth Cruise Missile Base I felt confused about the role of women's politics inside such a "mixed" event.

It must be difficult to be a peace-man excluded from all the excitement of Greenham - forced to face the truth that only without men has the power of womens peace action grown - and that this womens power is set against male power even peace males themselves (... very difficult but no escape).

The Feb. 6th Blockade was very successful, no building was carried out, there were only a few arrests and the Peace Movement showed its commitment by 6,000 prepared to break the law on a weekday. It made me very grateful to all of the women who have kept Greenham Common WOMENS Peace Camp alive. Made me realise what the unity between feminist women means because its not there at Molesworth. We created a little bit of it at the womens gate but meanwhile I have heard that men at another gate were threatening to invade the womens gate on the pretext that there weren't many women there and the womens gate was vulnerable - they weren't prepared to let the action "fail" because a few women wanted separate women only space.

For other women its different. They will have welcomed the chance to blockade with their men friends. At Greenham we can all share good times - womens space makes us breath easier - brings friends closer together despite the physical hardships. At Molesworth we were defined by our attitude to men either with the separatists at the Womens Gate or with male friends at the mixed gates. It didn't quite work somehow - but then the differences are pretty big between men and women.

RADIOACTIVITY

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

As a retired teacher I am making the assumption based on many years of contacts with parents and children, that parents try to do the best for their children. The health of millions of children and of those yet unborn is at risk from low-level radiation. Now life would be impossible without some risk, but most parents try to protect their children from the risk of hurting themselves or of damaging their health. The damage to the health of children living at a distance from Nuclear Power stations is caused by ionising radiation, which is all the time increasing in the environment.

You can do the following things

1. The first essential is so expensive that it will probably be better for several groups of parents to get together to purchase one. This is a Geiger counter which will give so many counts per minute when used to measure radioactivity
2. If you live near a Nuclear Power station you may be faced with the choice between your children's future good health and your own job. This choice was faced by some friends, who moved from Cumbria, not quite soon enough to prevent their then apparently healthy child from suffering genetic damage, which later showed up as a very painful form of arthritis.
3. You can join the growing protest movement, but you should be ready to operate on an international basis. Your child's health is as likely to be damaged by fall out from a Nuclear Power station in France, as from a British one. No one yet knows what is likely to be the effect on children's health of fall out from the latest French Nuclear Bomb explosion in the Pacific. There will certainly be more cases of childhood leukaemia.
4. Avoid having fish in the diet of your family. A great deal of the fish which we eat is caught in the Irish Sea and surrounding waters. The Irish Sea is the most radioactive in the world. Nuclear waste has been dumped in the sea until quite recently so it has probably already been taken up in the food chain, which of course reaches your kitchen in the end.
5. Unless quite essential, do not allow your child to have X rays. You may know more about the damaging effect of these on the body, than the doctor does. One X ray will add one year to the ageing of your body, it will add probably more to a child's.
6. Modern medical books are hardly likely to help you in protecting your child. Modern research on this subject is very recent indeed.
7. Mount a vigorous protest movement if there seems any likelihood of waste from Nuclear power stations being dumped anywhere near where you live
8. Try to live in a Nuclear Free Zone. Then at least you know that the local authority is doing its best for the health of you and your children



WOMENS SWIMMING

All sessions 25p per person.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Monday | 12 - 1.30 pm. | Victoria Leisure Centre Sneinton |
| Wednesday | 1.30 - 3.30 pm. | Noel St. Baths Hyson Green |
| Friday | 10.00 - 12.00 pm. | Noel St. Baths Hyson Green |
| Friday | 1.30 - 3.00 pm. | John Carroll Leisure Centre, Radford |
| Saturday | 7.00 - 9.00 pm. | Portland Leisure Centre Meadows |

Feminist Retreat

A weekend of empowerment through meditation and healing.

Meditation retreats are one of the best sources of inner nourishment and empowerment available today, it helps us to integrate our political intentions with our need for personal growth.

If you would like to arrange a feminist retreat please contact me

JEAN FREER 19, CHARLES ST, OXFORD
OX4 3AU. TEL (0865) 250140.

The weekend is planned to give a variety of experiences of inner spacious, joy, calm, more compassion for others, and increased sense of self-worth. Silence is an important part of the experience of a feminist retreat, (usually 8.30pm Saturday to Sunday morning) It is important to keep the energy calm and a silent atmosphere.

I ask each of you to pay between £4-£24 for the weekend, to cover cost of food and heating and as part of my increasing awareness of our need to value ourselves and each other. If women want to bring their own food please bring organic veg food.

Cartoons on pages 1/3/12/15 by

Cath Jackson 'Wonder Wombin'
Great cartoon book.

MOTHER'S HOUSE

Country house, old house,
Wreathed in flowers and gentle sunshine
Where in the night the frogs sang
And in the mountains the nightingale.

I feel homesick
Away from you;
I miss your airiness
Your gentle warmth.
I see you in my mind
Like a monument
Which the years wear away,
And time without ceasing
As in my childhood
Flowed fleeting by.

Old house
Of aged wood
With wide corridor
And garden filled with many colours,
Although you are of wood
With neither soul nor conscience
You are the fond reminder
Of my innocence.

At the bottom of your garden
The guava tree
The sweet lemon and the green cypress
Gave me sweetness, shade and coolness.
Behind your doors
With tender smile
With gentle advice
And full of love
My grandmother indulged me,
My sweet mother gave me her tenderness.
I felt your coolness
Your gentle warmth.

Gentle house, fond memory.

Flora de Moriva Guzman del Porton.

The author of this poem is Flora. I met her last year while I was working in Managua Nicaragua, with a Comité Defensa Sandinista C.D.S.-community group and base unit of political organisation in which she is active. This group had raised funds for a community centre which three of us from Nottingham helped to build. Their next urgent projects are electricity and water supply:- the square in which Flora lives has 100 housing units served by one tap. They can do the work but need the materials- there are scarcities of imported materials and foreign exchange. We were very excited and moved by Flora's writings- and her daughters' declamations of them- and hoped that it would be possible to compile an illustrated, bi-lingual booklet of them to raise funds. Flora also has a great personal need for foreign exchange because one of her four daughters, who is 5 years old, suffers from epilepsy, for which treatment is not available in Nicaragua, but she can get both drugs and hospital treatment in Costa Rica. If anyone would like to be involved in this please contact me- Mary 583536, 34 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

Women Anti-Apartheid Group

22nd March ICC: 1pm.
Meeting: Two themes.

Racism black people face in Britain
Links with racism in South Africa
which underpins apartheid.

Speakers: from S.W.A.P.O.
and a local black woman speaker.

Group meets 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.
7.30 pm Rainbow Centre, Mansfield Road.

March A.A. month of action: sanctions up more actions/events will be arranged.

Contact: Val Harris, Rainbow Centre
Tel: 585666

Phone to confirm about the above meeting.

Gentle reassurance
I see and feel in your eyes
that are soft and sleepy and beautiful
I tumble in warm desire
melting inside

Wanting to be lost
within the warmth of your body
Touching spirits
Becoming one
For a short while
Forever in memory

Melanie.

Women and Work Discussion Day

SATURDAY 5th APRIL
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
61b Mansfield Road.

Creche
Fully accessible
Food available (£1)

More details from Wendy Young
Equal Opportunities Unit
Tel: 418571



Lesbian Discussion & Action Group

Every Thursday 7.30 - 9.30
(except 1st Thursday of each month)

At International Community Centre
61b Mansfield Road.

All Lesbians Welcome

Current topics - lesbians & children
- Setting up the
Lesbian Centre
- the social scene



Co-operative Training

Course for Women

"WHAT'S A
CO-OP?"

A BUSINESS WHICH IS OWNED AND
CONTROLLED BY THE PEOPLE
WORKING IN IT.

"I HAVEN'T ANY
QUALIFICATIONS
OR EXPERIENCE!"

YOU DON'T NEED ANY FORMAL
QUALIFICATIONS OR EXPERIENCE,
BUT YOU MUST BE AN UNEMPLOYED
WOMAN, AGED OVER 25,
AND LIVING IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

"I CAN'T
SET UP A
BUSINESS!"

OUR COURSES WILL HELP YOU GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO SET UP A
WORKERS' CO-OP. WE WILL HELP YOU IDENTIFY BUSINESS IDEAS, GIVE ASSISTANCE WITH
MARKETING AND FINANCIAL PLANNING, AND SHOW YOU HOW COMPUTERS CAN BE USED IN A
BUSINESS. WE WILL ALSO HELP YOU DEVELOP THE SKILLS FOR CO-OPERATIVE DECISION-
MAKING.

"I CAN'T
AFFORD
TO GO TO
COLLEGE."

THE COURSE IS FREE, AND WE WILL ASSIST YOU
AS MUCH AS WE CAN WITH YOUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.
ANY BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

"WHO'D LOOK
AFTER THE
CHILDREN?"

WE CAN HELP WITH THE COSTS OF A
CHILDMINDER.

"HOW DO
I FIND OUT
MORE?"

COMPLETE THE FORM OVERLEAF
AND SEND IT TO ICOM WOMENS' LINK-UP

ICOM WOMEN'S LINK-UP - 1986 CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING COURSE

I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO JOIN YOUR 1986 COURSE STARTING IN APRIL.
I WOULD LIKE TO COME AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE COURSE BEFORE DECIDING TO APPLY.

NAME..... AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

..... PHONE.....

I HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 5 (AGES.....) AND I WOULD WANT HELP
WITH CHILDCARE.

* I DO/DO NOT HAVE AN IDEA FOR A BUSINESS (IT IS.....)

* I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING ON MY OWN/WITH WOMEN I ALREADY KNOW. THEY
ARE.....) AND THEY ARE SENDING IN
THEIR OWN FORMS.

* CROSS OUT WHERE NECESSARY.

JOINTLY FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AND NOTTS COUNTY COUNCIL

STARTS: 14TH APRIL 1986
ENDS: 17TH JULY 1986

RUNS EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
FROM 10 AM - 12 AM
1 PM - 3 PM

ATTENDANCE IS NECESSARY ON ALL
FOUR DAYS A WEEK, EACH WEEK,
AND A COMMITMENT TO DO THIS
IS REQUIRED BEFORE YOU START
THE COURSE. OVERLEAF

ICOM WOMEN'S LINK-UP
ROOM A11
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
61B MANSFIELD ROAD
NOTTINGHAM
NG1 3FN

TEL. (0602) 473010
(JACKY, LANIE, JANE)